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Mr. Riesel

GENEVA, Switzerland — In the delegates' lounge of the sumptuous Palais des Nations, there are men who would be dead today if it were not for the Central Intelligence Agency. They don't take the CIA, and the charges against it, as personal insults.

So it is the moment now to talk of the CIA's efforts to save those whom death stalked — but first a slight pause to explain who the delegates are and what they are doing here. They come in three-man teams — one each from government, labor and industry, representing 119 nations. They sit at the general assembly sessions of the International Labor Organization (ILO), which meets once a year to discuss global standards for working mothers, the total of weights which can be lifted by male and female workers, and such matters as intraplant grievances and employer-workers communications. On the latter committee is E. W. Abel, president of the United Steelworkers, for example.

America's three-man team consists of a self-made "diplomat," the International Association of Machinists' Rudy Faupl (the U.S. workers spokesman); Edwin Neilan, president of the Bank of Delaware (who warns the Communists by telling them that U.S. "private enterprise socialism" is better than their system); and Asst. Secy. of Labor George Weaver, who tore the Communist bloc apart the other day.

Daily they fight off Communist bloc efforts, a mixture of political leverage and blackmail to turn ILO into an anti-American juggernaut. Daily they counter Soviet or Ukraine or Hungarian (etc.) charges that the Americans and their allies are fronting for CIA.

And fighting alongside them, among others, is Richard Ishmael, leader of the Guyana Trades Union Council. I believe that he would have been dead if one CIA operation had failed.

Inside Labor

Sonic ILO's Owe CIA Their Lives

By VICTOR RIESEL

and Castro's guerrillas in his homeland for more than a decade when it was British Guiana. The Communist forces then were led by an East Indian dentist, Cheddi Jagan, who admittedly wanted to build a Marxist, Maoist Stalinist state

in that country at the northeast end of South America. For a while Jagan was prime minister under the British. He ran May Day parades featuring large photos of Stalin and Mao. His Chicago-educated American wife Janet went to Havana, Moscow and Peking — where she sought and got aid.

Terror swept the little colony. Jagan tried to purge the opposition. But Ishmael, always carrying a gun, and his co-leader, labor lawyer Forbes Burnham, fought back with a 79-day general strike in 1963.

The CIA certainly supported that deadly work stoppage. But only because it was being countered by everything Jagan and his Mao-Castro and Moscow forces dared to throw into British Guiana.

First the CIA got the approval of the British prime minister and colonial secretary. Then several CIA agents went to an American union and suggested that it permit them to go into Guiana as its representatives. This was approved. So a CIA agent then set up shop in a Georgetown hotel. It helped the weak anti-Communist unions run the long strike against the Jagan forces. The CIA's man whipped out printed propaganda. He put on a 15-minute radio program daily. He supplied about \$200,000 in expenses and strike relief funds. His colleagues meanwhile attempted to dig up Jagan's plans for tough treatment of the Ishmael people.

It was discovered that many men in the government wanted to break with the Communist regime. But they had a distaste for being killed. The CIA found these men did not lack courage. They just did not want to leave

The dam broke. The anti-Communist strikers won. Jagan was swept out. The colony was given independence. Today it is called Guyana. Ishmael is its workers' delegate to the ILO.

And when the Soviets and their satellites attempt to turn the general assembly here into a forum for the attack of the U.S. and Israel, Ishmael and others who live today and whose lands are free today help fight them off. Not because of CIA. But because of the hatred for dictatorship and secret police systems and terror.